



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police “Community Athletic Program” encourages positive summer activities for kids

The Howard County Police Department is encouraging young people to take advantage of the agency’s mobile Community Athletic Program (CAP). CAP is a traveling recreation center that provides constructive activities for youth during the summer. This year, CAP will operate weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., from July 14 to Aug. 18.

The police department’s youth division developed the mobile CAP, which consists of a traveling trailer filled with sports gear, games and video game equipment and is staffed by school resource officers and other youth services officers. Funding for the CAP is supplemented by the Howard County Police Foundation.

“Engaging with young people in a positive way is vital to building strong relationships between our communities and the police department,” said Police Chief Gary Gardner. “This program provides an opportunity for our officers to offer constructive activities and serve as role models in the neighborhoods we serve.”

The concept is for police to engage with youth in areas where young people congregate during the summer. The CAP differs from the unstaffed open space and sports facilities throughout the county. It provides positive options for youth in their own neighborhoods – and in locations where crime tends to increase in the summer, including near shopping centers, apartment complexes, foot paths and tot lots – under the supervision of police and on a drop-in basis. The CAP’s prevention/intervention model targets middle- and high-school-aged youth who do not yet have transportation but are too old for traditional, supervised summer activities.

The trailer visits a different neighborhood each day of the week, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and then returns to that neighborhood on the same day in subsequent weeks. The program is an integral part of the agency’s multifaceted crime-fighting and anti-gang strategy.

The locations are as follows:

- Mondays: Talbott Springs Pool, 9660 Basket Ring Road, Columbia
- Tuesdays: Blandair Park, 5750 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia
- Wednesdays: Roger Carter Community Center, 3000 Milltowne Drive, Ellicott City
- Thursdays: North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel
- Fridays: Wilde Lake Middle School, 10481 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia

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